

CECRI *news*

CENTRAL ELECTROCHEMICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KARAIKUDI - 630006

[Council of Scientific and Industrial Research]



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DG, CSIR VISITS

August 29, 2008 is a memorable day for CECRI. Professor Samir K. Brahmachari, Director General, CSIR visited CECRI, Karaikudi on this day to deliver the special CECRI Diamond Jubilee Lecture as well as to inaugurate CSIR Annual Business Meet (ABM-2008) at CECRI.

This is the maiden visit of Professor Brahmachari to CECRI after he assumed the office of the Director General of CSIR and he was accorded a very warm and cordial welcome by the entire CECRI community. Delivering the Diamond Jubilee lecture, Professor Brahmachari recollected the glorious achievements of CSIR laboratories. He proudly recalled the vital role played by CSIR laboratories in nation building. Agriculture, health, drinking water mission, space and energy are some important areas where CSIR laboratories



have made vital contributions.

In his address, he mentioned that in 1960, CSIR developed the know-how for the indelible marking ink employed during the polling process which even today is earning a huge royalty to CSIR. Similarly in 1970s, during the era of Green Revolution in India, more than 70% of pesticides used in India were based on CSIR know-how. Technology for cleaning coal, design and development of the indigenous "Swaraj" tractor and TSIA electrodes for chlor-alkali production are a few other inventions that rolled out of the CSIR laboratories and richly contributed to the economic progress of the nation. Recently, CSIR has successfully designed and developed a Small Aircraft.

He remarked with pride that in 2007, CSIR Scientists have earned a place in the citation list of Nobel Awardee's work. Further he added that CSIR possesses a strong repertoire of trained scientific and technological manpower and it is significantly contributing to the nation's human resources by training thousands of doctoral and post-doctoral research scholars and project personnel.

Then, he briefly mentioned about the IGIB programme on gene mapping of the people living in different parts of our nation and its correlation to the vulnerability of the

population for some specific, widely prevalent diseases such as asthma and diabetic mellitus. This study has assumed international importance in view of its relevance to assessment of drugs' efficacy.

He also narrated how CSIR and its staff readily offered their technological services to the country when it suffered grave calamities like earthquakes in Maharashtra (Latur) and Gujarat and Tsunami in coastal Tamilnadu.

Later, Professor Brahmachari touched upon briefly on the models for S&T management, especially those models relevant to our nation. In this context, he elaborated the successful model adapted by IGIB by tracing the evolution of the laboratory in the last one decade. By following different innovative R&D tools for technology development and management, he pointed out that, today, IGIB has been transformed from an isolated laboratory working in the area of Biochemical research to a laboratory dedicated to contemporary genomics research.

He insisted that, in tune with the changing global scenario, CSIR should continuously update its knowledgebase and fine-tune itself to face the problems of today and the challenges for the future. He called upon the scientists, especially the younger ones to



dream “big” and strive hard to realize their dreams which alone would earn a niche and enviable place for CSIR in the national level and make our nation an unassailable super power. He also wished that, in the present context, the acronym, CSIR should stand for Council of Scientific and Innovative Research with Corporate Social Indian Responsibilities.

In conclusion, Professor Brahmachari quoted, with fervour and dedication the words of Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, “It is Science alone that can solve the problems of poverty of a nation like India”. He stressed that competitive spirit coupled with cooperation among the different CSIR laboratories is the need of the hour to achieve success. Further he emphasized that 'competition with cooperation' should be the motto of future CSIR. Our ultimate aim is to grow the Science for the people to provide comfortable health, pure drinking water, and wealth from

waste and sustainable energy. He underlined that this will be the roadmap of CSIR. Professor Brahmachari's lecture was attended by a large number of scientists from CECRI, CSIR headquarters and 35 other CSIR laboratories including Dr.S.Sivaram (Director, NCL), Dr B.K.Mishra (Director, IMMT), Dr P.G.Rao (Director, NEIST), Sri. S. Ghosh (CMD, NRDC) and Dr D Yogeswara Rao (CSIR HQ) and other invitees.

Earlier, Professor A.K. Shukla, Director, CECRI in his welcome address briefed about CECRI's successful journey currently passing through the milestone of Diamond Jubilee. After the lecture, Dr. V. Yegnaraman, Scientist, CECRI expressed vote of thanks.

Later, Professor Brahmachari inaugurated the CSIR Annual Business Meet (ABM-2008) that was held at CECRI during August 29-31, 2008. In his inaugural address, he briefly described the vital role being played by CSIR in industrial and economic development of our nation. He stressed that business development in CSIR should be on par with the global development. Also, he requested Dr.Sivaram, Director, NCL, to be the mentor for the programme to improve and modernize the business strategy for CSIR.

In the afternoon, Professor Brahmachari



inaugurated the e-library facility being established at CECRI. After an address to the entire S&T staff, he visited the laboratories, witnessed the fuel cell activity and inspected the recently established Central Instruments Facility. He held a brief discussion with the scientists working in the batteries division and presented details of the CSIR programme for the development of Soleksha (battery-powered cycle rickshaw) and called upon CECRI scientists to contribute their mite to this socially important R&D programme.



On August 30, 2008 morning, before leaving CECRI, Professor Brahmachari held a lively interaction session with the students of the B.Tech (Chemical and Electrochemical engineering) programme conducted by CECRI in affiliation with Anna University.

CECRI Foundation day

On July 25, 2008, the 61st Foundation Day of Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI) was celebrated in a grand manner. Professor D. Balasubramanian, Director (Research), L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad and former Director of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and delivered the CECRI Foundation Day Lecture on "The History of Genetics From the Past to Today". In his lecture, he narrated the origin of studies in genetics and its growth during the past. He also highlighted the importance of genetics in the modern scenario in particular medical and forensic sciences.

Professor Balasubramanian quoted verses from ancient vedic scriptures [Purushasuktam) to trace the origin of concepts on Genetics and Inheritance. He narrated Galton's pioneering experiments with the blood samples of 'black' and 'white'



rabbits. He briefly touched upon the Lamarckian 'Acquisition of Traits and passing them on to the offspring'. He explained elaborately Mendel's observations from the experiments with Pea plants. He highlighted the works of W. Johannsen, W. Sulton and Morgan in the title of Genetics. He added that the understanding of DNA from chromosome cells opened an exciting and new `era' in the field of Genetic Engineering.

He concluded the lecture with some interesting aspects of Reverse Genetics. Here, trait is not the starting point to trace Gene. But after reading gene, it is compared with data bank for correlation.

The science of genetics finds immense applications in many areas. Ascertaining legal parenthood, identification of the legitimacy of an infant and remedy for inherited disorders are some areas where genetics has made deep inroads. The lecture ended with a lively discussion session in which Professor



Balasubramanian provided answers with interesting illustrations to the comments and clarifications from the scientists.

Earlier, Professor A. K. Shukla, Director, CECRI in his Welcome Address recalled this memorable day, 60 years ago, on which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister laid the Foundation Stone in the august presence of Dr.S.S. Bhatnagar and Dr. RM. Alagappa Chettiar. He briefly recalled with gratitude the munificence of Dr. Alagappa Chettiar in founding CECRI at



Karaikudi. Also, he highlighted the significant milestones CECRI had passed in its path of progress. Dr. V. Yegnaraman, Scientist G and Chairman, Organizing Committee delivered the vote of thanks.

In the afternoon, Professor D. Balasubramanian visited the Central Instruments Facility. Later, he addressed the students of B.Tech.(Chem.& Electrochem.Engg) programme offered by CECRI. It was an interactive session where students answered the questions from the speaker, who explained many aspects with his vivid illustrations. He planted a sapling at CECRI premises as a mark of his visit.

In the evening, a classical dance programme by the students of Kalaikovil Dance Academy was organized, which was witnessed by the Chief Guest, staff and their family members. To mark the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Year, all the staff members were presented with a memento.

FOREIGN DEPUTATION



Our Scientist Dr. K. L.N. Phani was deputed to Germany for three months from August 18, 2008 under the INSA-DFG Exchange Programme to pursue

research on the investigations of interfaces with nano-composite modifiers to exhibit selectivity in electrochemical sensing of biologically and environmentally important species with Professor Ulrich Guth, Technical University, Dresden.



Our Scientist Dr. A. Manuel Stephan has been deputed to Portugal from 31st August to 5th September 2008 to present his Papers at 11th International Symposium on Polymer Electrolytes under CSIR PFA Scheme.

Award of Ph.D. Degree

Shri S.Senthil Kumar, Scientist, EEC Division has been awarded Ph.D. Degree by Bharathidasan University for his thesis entitled "Investigations on the Generation of Supported Metal Nanoparticles for Catalytic and Electroanalytical Applications" under the guidance of our Scientist Dr.K.L.N.Phani.

Retirements on superannuation

On 31.07.08

Shri A. Muthukumaran, Scientist Gr. IV(5)



On 31.08.08

Shri M. Duraisamy, Technician Gr. II(4)

